



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DIRECTOR DAY OF FWS SAYS, "SAVE WILDLIFE LANDS"

"During wildlife week we should focus our attention on one of the important fundamentals of game and fish conservation: wildlife must have a place to live," Albert M. Day, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated today.

National Wildlife Restoration Week is to be observed March 19-25 for the 13th consecutive year. The observation of wildlife week was originally established by proclamation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938, and is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D. C.

"While national and state departments concerned with game and fish are increasing the acreage of public lands devoted to wildlife, thousands of acres of private land are being rendered unproductive for upland game and waterfowl," said Mr. Day.

"We must make certain that any changes now made in land and water use take into consideration the protection and production of wildlife."

Federal and state governments cannot take all the responsibility of supplying wildlife with living quarters in refuges, parks and other public lands, the Director stated. A program of cooperation with private landowners should be worked out — aiding them in the improvement of their lands through good land practices which, at the same time, pay dividends in better soil management as well as in game mammals, birds and fish.

If individual land owners will construct farm ponds, plant food-producing shrubs in border strips and hedgerows, and, most important, maintain existing habitat, a tremendous boost will be given to wildlife conservation, Day pointed out. One of the major needs is for land managers to preserve potholes and marshes for the breeding of waterfowl. Too many of these natural waterfowl breeding areas are being drained.

When private citizens become interested in wildlife to the extent of working hard as individuals for its preservation, our country will become a much better place to live in, said Director Day, and that is the purpose behind the national wildlife week. Not only hunters and fishermen will benefit, but every citizen — from camper, hiker and motorist to the camera and binocular toting enthusiast.

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